

THE MUSCATINE JOURNAL

A LEE NEWSPAPER

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Editorial Page

Child Abuse

There have always been cases of child abuse, but more are being called to the attention of authorities in Iowa since the passage of the Abuse of Children Act by the 1965 Iowa legislature.

The 1965 law provides immunity from liability to those citizens who act in good faith in reporting cases of suspected or known cases of abuse of children. Reports may be made to county departments of social welfare, county attorneys, sheriffs, police, probation officers and juvenile courts. Within 96 hours an investigation must be made by the county department of social welfare, and a report made to the court. If, for the safety of the child, it appears wise to remove him from his home, a court order to do so is sought by the county attorney.

Maurice A. Harmon, commissioner of the State Department of Social Services, said 160 cases of child abuse were reported and investigated by county departments of social welfare during the 15 months which ended March 30.

Of the 160 reported cases, 33 were children under two years old; 27 from two to five; 42 from five to ten; 40 from ten to six-

teen; and 13 were over sixteen.

In only 21 of the cases was abuse ruled out. Bruises and welts were found in 89 of the cases, abrasions and lacerations in 23, bone fracture in nine, skull fractures in three, brain damage in two; and a variety of other evidence of abuse. Eleven of the children had multiple injuries, and two died.

In the majority of cases, 107, a natural parent of the child inflicted the injury. Stepparents were named in 37 instances.

School and child care facilities reported 46 of the cases; doctors and hospitals, 20; public social agencies, 19; public health nurses, 6; and the police, 5. The remainder were reported by concerned individuals.

Private individuals, school people and doctors formerly reluctant to report suspected child abuse because they were liable to lawsuits if the abuse could not be proved. The new Iowa law provides immunity to anyone reporting suspected child abuse in good faith.

Exposing the child-beaters, and bringing them into court for punishment, is the most effective way of protecting children from injurious abuse.

The Soviets Toughened Their Line

BY JOHN CHAMBERLAIN

NEW YORK — Every year Radio Liberty, which keeps a close watch on what is being said and written in Soviet Russia, makes a full analysis of the official Communist May Day slogans, and compares them to those of the previous year. The report on slogan content, as set forth by Radio Liberty's Christian Duevel, offers an almost priceless insight into what may be expected from the U.S.S.R. until the next change in the party line.

This year's comparison of 1968 and 1967 slogans shows that Moscow is very busy tightening ship. Though optimists profess to see a thaw in the Cold War, the prognosis indicated by the May Day slogans is ominous: we are in for stormy weather in U.S.S.R. — Free World relations.

Last year the Soviet sloganeers were wishing long life to a "multi-national Soviet" state; this year there is no mention of multi-nationalism. In other words: "Israel, watch out; your religious brothers in the Soviet Union must become good supporters of the Communist Fatherland, or else."

In 1967 the slogans spoke of struggling for the triumph of party "ideals." The young rebel intellectuals took this seriously and began to agitate against the obvious perversion of Communist ideals by the Kremlin bureaucrats and the apparatchiks. Now the sloganeers are cracking down on the young intellectuals, telling them to get busy learning something about Marxist-Leninist theory.

The foreign policy slogan hailing the alliance of the forces of socialism has dropped any mention of "peace." Almost all of the new May Day foreign policy slogans ring with calls to struggle against the "imperialist" foe. Instead of talking about the "brotherhood" of the working classes, the new slogans hail the "unity and solidarity of all anti-imperialist forces." Meaning that anybody who is willing to help oust the United States from South Vietnam is welcome for the moment as a Soviet ally. Dr. Ben Spock and the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, please copy. But don't be surprised when, at the next twist in the Communist line, you are dropped because you are not bona fide members of the proletariat.

The new May Day slogans offer ardent

greetings to "courageous fighters against the capitalist and colonial yoke... who are languishing in prisons and fascist torture-chambers." The last time such a slogan appeared was in 1964, when a gentler version referred to "prisoners of capitalism."

After four years of relatively peaceful co-existence, at least as between European Communist countries and the West, the capitalist democracies have become "fascist torturers." Query: has anyone seen any Auschwitz or Belsen around?

The latest slogans on Vietnam have been considerably sharpened over previous versions. Last year's slogan sent fraternal greetings to the "courageous Vietnamese people" and shouted "shame to the American aggressors!" This year's slogans speak of "freedom and independence" for the "homeland" of the Vietnamese, making no distinction between north and south, and go on to say, "Get the American imperialists out of Vietnam! Vietnam to the Vietnamese!" Since the suggestion that Vietnam belongs to the Vietnamese has never appeared in any edition of the Soviet propaganda slogans before, Radio Liberty interprets its emergence to mean that the Moscow dialecticians have decided that the South Vietnamese, if left to their own devices, will turn Communist without question.

What the slogans portend is Soviet intransigence in backing up the claims of the Viet Cong to participation in the South Vietnamese government as one of the prices to be paid by America for peace. As for the Middle East, this year's slogan is specific in demanding the "withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from the occupied Arab territories." This is much stronger than the Soviet demand, as of last October, "for full liquidation of the consequences of Israeli aggression," which could have been interpreted in various ways.

With Moscow going full tilt against the "imperialists," our envoys to Paris are not to be envied. Would that we had some slogans capable of adding strength to Ambassador Averell Harriman's arms — and lungs.

Too many after-dinner speakers give you in length what they lack in depth. — The Wall Street Journal.



"Say, mister, you dropped your mask."

Federal Employees and the Poor

By JACK MILLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Substantial numbers of federal employees say they'll use off-hours and vacation time to join the Poor People's Campaign—some lining up against programs and policies of their own agencies.

Neither campaign nor federal officials are able to say how many employees are volunteering for the demonstration, but a reporter's check of several agencies shows interest running strong.

This interest is more pronounced among Negro employees but many whites also are planning to help.

Although few yet have taken part in the newly started campaign, large numbers of employees from such agencies as Health, Education and Welfare; the Public Health Service; and the Peace Corps are offering their services.

At HEW's Office for Civil Rights, employee Walter Warfield took three hours of annual leave time to pass out enlistment forms. He got back volunteer slips from about 40 of the 100 employees in the office.

Physicians from the PHS's National Institutes of Health have volunteered in force.

Mrs. Mary Holman, administrator with the campaign's medical committee, estimates that 300 doctors have volunteered and that about 200 are from federal posts.

A spokesman for the Public

Health Service confirmed that many doctors are taking part. He said many are "desk doctors" who have practiced very little medicine" and they look upon the campaign as a chance to do something directly for the poor.

At the Peace Corps, Special Services Director Allen Rothberg said a privately organized effort to round up volunteers has enlisted about 300 of the corps' 700-member Washington staff.

The government's policy on participation by employees is the same as it was for employees taking part in last October's anti-Vietnam War march on the Pentagon and for signing a petition against the war: They must do so on their own time and they cannot take part in any direct criticism of their agency, especially if they are in policy-making positions.

In the broad sense, many of the employees joining the effort are aligning themselves against policies and programs of their agencies merely by taking part in the campaign. And many of them mean to.

One HEW employee who asked not to be identified said he had helped members of the campaign draft one of the series of demand papers that were presented to his department. Asked whether this amounts to disloyalty to the agency, Michael Tabor, a community affairs assistant at HEW, replied: "Not at all. I think we have a duty to support constructive change."

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To Your Good Health

By Joseph G. Molner, M.D.

Convulsions In Children

Dear Dr. Molner: What are the underlying factors regarding convulsions in small children? Can they be detected and treated before an occurrence? At what age do they cease? — Mrs. R.M.N.

Mrs. R.M.N. keeps in mind that not all convulsions are the same. Some (such as various forms of epilepsy) are deep-seated. Others are transient.

Your question, however, appears to relate to the sudden convulsions in infants which sometimes are touched off by fevers, or colds, or other infections.

Convulsions in such cases, more scary than dangerous, depend on the vulnerability of certain brain centers to whatever stimulus is present. One infant will convulse with a fever; another, with a much higher temperature, will not.

There is no way to tell in advance. If a youngster has a convulsion or two, however, it is certainly wise to be alert for others when the child becomes ill.

The important thing then is not to panic, but to calm the child down. A tepid bath, in which the child can relax, is about as effective as anything. Parents of such youngsters discover that calling the doctor doesn't do much good, because by the time a doctor can get there, the child is over the convulsion and is resting comfortably.

Usually this type of convulsion

does not occur after the age of two years. Perhaps about 15 to 20 per cent will continue convulsions after that age, in which case they should be thoroughly examined to seek out the nature and cause of the convulsive disorders. Likewise, convulsions which start after infancy should be investigated.

Dear Dr. Molner: Would you explain about a diaphragmatic hernia? Is it serious or fatal? Can it be healed without surgery? In my case, my stomach tries to come up in my chest, causing vomiting, diarrhea, and much pain. — Mrs. M.J.W.

That is another name for hiatal hernia, about which I have a booklet, "Hiatal Hernia and Eight Ways to Combat It." If you want it, send 25 cents in coin and a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope for a copy. This type of ailment ranges in degree from trivial to very painful, but it is not the sort of thing which is likely to be fatal. In some severe cases surgery is the only solution, but in the majority of cases, patients can be kept comfortable with conservative treatment.

Dear Dr. Molner: My husband is 83 and when he smells strong odors such as paint, gasoline, shoe polish, and so on, he says it makes him sick. He thinks it affects his lungs. I would appreciate your view on the subject. — Mrs. D.E.

Call it eccentricity. Odors

do bother some people, but merely the smell — as opposed to deep inhalation of fumes — of such substances is not harmful. The best suggestion I can make is to try to reassure him that his lungs are not being harmed.

I would suspect that somehow he has acquired such a fear, and what he really needs is to be gently told — probably repeatedly — that the odors can't hurt him.

Dear Dr. Molner: In some diets (low residue, for instance) roast beef is allowed, but not warmed-over beef as in stews, etc. Would you explain why? — D.H.

There is no reason why warmed-over beef cannot be used in a stew. The directions probably referred to other ingredients in the stew not acceptable for a low-residue diet.

Emphysema can be controlled. To learn how to live with this serious lung disease, write to Dr. Molner in care of this newspaper, requesting a copy of the booklet, "How To Control Emphysema," enclosing a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope and 30 cents in coin to cover cost of printing and handling.

Dr. Molner welcomes all reader mail, but regrets that due to the tremendous volume received daily, he is unable to answer individual letters. Readers' questions are incorporated in his column whenever possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the editor:
"Why aren't there more activities for the teenagers?" This is a question which you may hear from many teenagers. If all of us teenagers would ask this question: "What can I do?" they would be sure to come up with more things to do than they can handle. I know because I am a teenager.

I work three nights a week and sometimes all week. My nights are always filled. The job that I have, I obtained because my parents were kind enough to recommend me for the job. I work from 4 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. usually.

"What kind of job do I have?" I babysit. "Haven't anybody heard of this?" I know that the boys are probably thinking that this solves only the girls problem of what to do. Well, boys I'm sure that most of you are capable of taking care of children. If you have any brothers or sisters you can babysit just by experience. There are jobs a plenty for babysitting. And this summer people all over town will be looking for babysitters.

I'm sure your parents will recommend you if you are capable of watching children.

If babysitting does not serve your patience then ask yourself this question: "What can I do?" I'm sure you'll come up with plenty of oddjobs to do.

For those of you who are lazy,

you're just out of luck. I guess you'll still be asking the question: "What can teenagers do on week nights."

Yours truly,
Debbie Reynolds
702 Main Street
Muscatine, Iowa

To the editor:

My husband, myself and two teenage sons attended the first performance of the Jimmy Dorsey band at the Palace Theater, Monday night. In the audience were a total of thirty one people which included five teenagers in all. What a disappointment.

Who were the people that sponsored it? Where was the advertising? Where were the music store promoters? Where were the band directors, music instructors of our schools? Where were the business men? Our city fathers? Where were the other parents with teenagers who complain about the loud and noisy music of today?

Such a wonderful hour and a half of entertainment. Really put Muscatine on the map as Mr. Castle left us with the impression that it would be a cold day in January before they would be back. News travels fast.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Robert Thomas
1204 Logan St.
Muscatine, Iowa

'Today in History'

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, May 17, the 138th day of 1968. There are 228 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: On this date in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional.

On this date — In 1666, Newark, N.J., was founded by Congregationalists from Connecticut.

In 1792, the New York Stock Exchange was founded.

In 1875, the first Kentucky Derby horse race was held in Louisville, Ky.

In 1940, the Nazis occupied Brussels, Belgium.

In 1957, Egypt barred Israeli merchant ships from the Suez Canal.

In 1961, Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba offered to exchange prisoners captured in the Bay of Pigs operation for U.S. heavy tractors.

Ten years ago — A right-wing leader of the French National Assembly, Jacques Soustelle, fled France to lead dissidents in Algeria.

Five years ago — The United States suspended diplomatic relations with Haiti.

One year ago — One policeman was killed and nearly 500 students arrested during rioting at Texas Southern University in Houston.

Our Yesterdays

100 Years Ago

A young man named Dana, a boarder at the Pennsylvania House, had a coat and pair of pants stolen from his room Saturday morning, by some unknown person.

75 Years Ago

The Musical Union will meet at 7:25 o'clock tonight at the Congregational church. Best fire, lightning, tornado, cyclone, and windstorm insurance written at the office of Thomas Brown.

Ladies waists of all kinds at Lilly and Hine.

50 Years Ago

Muscatine People will be given an exceptional opportunity of seeing their sons, brothers, or friends, who are in service at the French front in action. Official government war pictures

will be shown at the Palace Monday evening.

25 Years Ago

Cadet James F. Tierney of Muscatine, who is now in training as an aviation cadet at the Navy Pre-Flight school at St. Mary's college in California, won double honors the past week. He was chosen the "cadet of the week" because of his all around athletic ability and crowned the regimental wrestling champion in the 135 pound division.

Mrs. Fannie Holzhauser, 72, died at 10 o'clock this morning of a heart attack at her home, 516 Main St. She was born March 3, 1871, in Muscatine.

10 Years Ago

The Muscatine city council Thursday night took steps to purchase 100 parking meters.

The Daily Prayer

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother. (John 19:25)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, bless all mothers with patience and courage, that they may be able to face any hardship for their children. Grant also, our Father, that these children may respond with love for those who have given them birth. Amen.

We Need the Trains

From the Burlington Hawk-Eye

Discontinuance of the Santa Fe Chief, which has served Southeast Iowans — out of Ft. Madison — for more than 50 years, is more than a sentimental footnote to history.

It is one more step in a distressing trend which runs directly counter to the growing needs of the people.

With highways and airways becoming increasingly overcrowded and unsafe, this country needs more, not fewer trains.

The answer to that always is that the people don't want to ride trains. The Santa Fe cites, as reasons for eliminating the Chief, the twin reasons that passenger business has declined, and that they've lost much of their mail subsidy.

But the question has never been answered about whether the people have been given a fair opportunity to patronize rail transportation — good rail transportation.

In speed, schedules, quality of service, and promotion of rail travel, the American railroads are generally considered by travelers to be inferior to European and Japanese lines.

Blame is distributed variously to freight-minded vs. passenger-oriented railroad management, to union featherbedding, to overly restrictive government regulations.

But all of those things are subject to correction. The vital point is that correction is needed. As this nation becomes drastically more populous and more mobile, it will need the best of all modes of transportation.

the small society

by Brickman

AND IF ELECTED I ALSO PROMISE...

I WONDER HOW MANY PROMISES IT TAKES TO ROB A MAN OF HIS BETTER JUDGMENT-

